



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 632

LCO No. 2917

02917____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING ASSISTANCE FOR DAIRY FARMERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) There shall be established a
2 Dairy Farm Protection account, which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
3 account within the General Fund, for the Commissioner of Agriculture.
4 The commissioner may use said account to make grants to dairy
5 farmers in this state based on the milk production levels of such
6 farmers in any year where the average monthly federal price per
7 hundredweight received by such farmers for milk produced by them is
8 less than such farmers' costs of production, as determined by the
9 commissioner.

10 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of
11 Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy
12 and Management, shall, not later than January 1, 2009, make
13 recommendations and any proposed legislative changes to the joint
14 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
15 matters relating to agriculture, energy and public utilities, in
16 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding
17 actions that may be taken to lower agricultural fuel, electricity and

18 production costs.

19 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of
20 Agriculture and the Commissioner of Economic and Community
21 Development shall, not later than January 1, 2009, jointly make
22 recommendations and any proposed legislative changes to the joint
23 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
24 matters relating to agriculture, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
25 general statutes, regarding actions that may be taken to increase
26 Connecticut dairy industry revenues.

27 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established, within
28 available appropriations, the Connecticut Certified Milk Promotion
29 Board, which shall be within the Department of Agriculture.

30 (b) The board shall consist of the following members: (1) One
31 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be involved
32 in agriculture or in an agriculture organization; (2) one appointed by
33 the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be actively involved
34 in dairy farming; (3) one appointed by the minority leader of the
35 Senate, who shall represent the dairy industry; (4) one appointed by
36 the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a
37 dairy retailer; (5) one appointed by the speaker of the House of
38 Representatives, who shall be involved in agriculture or in an
39 agriculture organization; (6) one appointed by the majority leader of
40 the House of Representatives, who shall be a dairy wholesaler; (7) the
41 Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee; and (8)
42 the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
43 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to agriculture, who
44 shall be ex-officio members without the right to vote. The board shall
45 elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members.
46 Any person absent from (A) three consecutive meetings of the
47 commission, or (B) fifty per cent of such meetings during any calendar
48 year shall be deemed to have resigned from the board, effective
49 immediately. Vacancies on the board shall be filled by the appointing

50 authority. Members of the board serve without compensation but
 51 shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses
 52 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. The board shall
 53 meet as often as deemed necessary by the chairperson or a majority of
 54 the board.

55 (c) The board shall: (1) Develop, coordinate and implement
 56 promotional, research and other programs designed to promote
 57 Connecticut dairy farms and milk consumption; and (2) prepare and
 58 submit to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
 59 having cognizance of matters relating to agriculture an annual report
 60 concerning its activities.

61 (d) The board may use such funds as may be available from federal,
 62 state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out the
 63 purposes of this section.

64 (e) The board may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67 of the
 65 general statutes, employ any necessary staff within available
 66 appropriations.

67 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of \$____ dollars is
 68 appropriated to the Department of Agriculture, from the General
 69 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, to fund the Dairy Farm
 70 Protection account established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To assist Connecticut dairy farmers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]